

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
25 N BROADWAY
PERU, IN 46970
March 9, 2015

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order. All Commissioners are present.

CLAIMS

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the claims. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

VACATION ROLL OVER REQUEST

The Board received a request from the Prosecutor to allow Brooke Bray to carry over some vacation time she has not been able to use. Commissioner West made a motion to allow her till the end of April to use the acquired time. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

APEX PRESENTATION

APEX reviewed the advantages of the APEX Cost Plus program for the Commissioners and those in attendance.

Mary Brown, Chief Deputy Auditor and head of the Insurance Committee, asked if Dukes Hospital or Lutheran Network had been contacted about working with this program. Chairman Francis stated that this program is Medicaid cost plus 20% and if they work with Medicaid there is no reason they would not want to work with this program. Mr. Dreyfus stated there was no negotiated plan.

Mrs. Brown then asked if the employee would be balance billed. Mr. Dreyfus stated absolutely not but if that happened, the employee would turn it in to the insurance company and ELAP would negotiate through the appeals process. The employee would pay the same amount of out of pocket as they do now and no more. There have 12 instances where it went to court and ELPA won all 12 times. All cost to the employee will remain the same as it is now.

Commissioner West stated that Grant County and Cass County are pleased with the program.

Mrs. Brown asked if this program is endorsed by the AIC (Association of Counties) and it is so wonderful, why are more Counties not taking advantage of it. Chairman Francis stated because of what we are going through right now. People are afraid of change

Commissioner West asked APEX what the downfall to the program would be. Mr. Dreyfus and Mr. Sylvester said the only downfall would be not signing up for the program.

Chairman Francis stated that if the County does not make a change, the County would not be able to offer insurance to the employees.

Mrs. Brown stated that the Insurance Committee met Friday and reviewed the numbers and if there is 1.375 million appropriated, \$200,000 appropriated from the Highway, may contribution 234,361, money from other funds 75,000, brings the total to 1.837 million and we are currently down to 135 employees on the plan verses the 146 we had at the time of renewal. The claims so far for the 1st quarter have been very low. After some discussion, the committee felt like the employees would prefer paying more in premiums and keeping the same funds, which looks doable with this figures. Mrs. Brown asked if the Commissioners would consider this option. No one has had time to truly look at this program and the employees would be willing to take another hit instead of moving to a program no one knows anything about.

Council President Ralph Duckwall stated that the County went through some very painful cuts in 2011-2012 and last year we lost 14 – 15 jobs. In the beginning of 2014, County

General had a balance of \$1,688,914 and at the end of 2014 a balance of \$1,095,001 and we need to build that cash balance.

Councilman Manning would like to be able to keep the benefits the same as they are now and asked if this program does not work out would it be difficult to switch back. That is possible but not to the same plan because if we switch to this new plan, the County's grandfather status ends. Chairman Francis reiterated that Cass County has been on it for four years and is happy with it.

Chairman Francis also stated that this has nothing to do with the service that has been given by AGA, because they have been great to work with and the Board has appreciated working with them but they have a budget they have to stay within so they must make changes. Mrs. Brown stated that the Council has never appropriated enough money so why is it an issue now.

AGA did recommend they have an attorney look over all the paperwork to make sure everything is legal.

Commissioner West made a motion to switch to the APEX Cost Plus Plan effective May 1, 2015. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner West did thank the Insurance Committee for all their hard work and he was sorry there was not enough time for them to get the information they felt they needed.

AGA stated they would do what it needed for a smooth transition.

MOVING OF OFFICES

Tim Hunter asked about the move of the Voter Registration office from the 1st floor to the 2nd floor. He reminded the Board that they have two very disgruntled employees on the second floor and feels like there will be issues if they put the two offices together in the same room. Commissioner West stated that he did not know why the Clerk has an issue with her employees being on two different floors with the availability of computers and such. The Auditor stated that is not the same as being able to walk out your office door and hand someone something to do. The Clerk's office still deal with a lot of paper files for all 3 courts. Commissioner West said he thought it was ridiculous that the Clerk still does all those things the Judges ask her to do such as doing calendars in different fonts because court personnel prefer different fonts. The Clerk is an Elected Official and therefore in charge of her own office and not required to do the things requested by the Courts. Tim Hunter strongly disagreed stating that, as the Clerk of the Courts, she is required to do what the judges request of her. Officer Hunter remembers a time that a judge threatened to have a Clerk put in jail for not doing what he requested of her. The Judges have the final say.

The Clerk was told that, if she agreed to try doing without the two employees that were eliminated, the Voter Registration office/employees would be moved to the 2nd floor and room would be made available for her employees and her files. This would ensure that she would be able to utilize, to the fullest extent possible, all of her employees. This would soften the blow of losing those two employees and hopefully keep the flow of work moving. Commissioner West stated he knew nothing about that agreement. Chairman Francis stated that he does remember that conversation.

Commissioner West made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hamman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Adjourned

MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____, Chairman
Joshua Francis

_____, **Vice Chairman**
Larry West

_____, **Member**
Jerry Hamman

Attest: _____, **Auditor**
Jane Lilley